



Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR 1939.

*To the Chairman and Members of the BLACKROD URBAN
DISTRICT COUNCIL.*

GENTLEMEN.

I beg to present my Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary conditions of the District during the year 1939.

General Statistics.

Area (Acres)	2392.394
Population (Census 1931)	3,599
Number of Inhabited Houses	910
Rateable Value	£11,139
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£46/8/3

Extracts from Vital Statistics during the year 1939.

These are delayed owing to War conditions.

Notifiable Diseases during the Year.

	Total at all ages	Under 1 year	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	65 and over	Total deaths	Cases re- moved to Hospital	Deaths in Hos- pital
Scarlet Fever	7					1	4	1		1					7	
Diphtheria	11					1	2	3	1	2	1	1			11	
Pneumonia	1											1				
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	1														
Erysipelas	1										1					
	21	1				2	6	4	1	3	2	2			18	

Causes of Sickness during the year.

There were 21 cases of Infectious disease notified during the year, chiefly Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria. An epidemic of Measles occurred during the month of May, when it became necessary to close the National Infants School for two weeks.

On the whole, the sickness for the year was below normal.

Causes of Deaths during the year.

				Males.	Females.
Cancer ...	...	...	...	0	1
Bronchitis	...	...	...	0	1
Heart Disease	...	...	...	9	3
Cerebral Hæmorrhage	...	...	...	2	4
Other defined Diseases	...	...	...	2	3
Senility ...	...	...	...	3	3
Congenital Debility	...	...	...	0	2
Violence	...	...	...	1	0
				—	—
			Totals	17	17

Nursing Arrangements.

There is 1 Midwife registered and 1 practising.

Hospital Accommodation.

For Smallpox—no provision.

Other Infectious Diseases :—Joint Hospital, situated at Fall Birch, Horwich, with subscription in proportion to population. There are 54 beds in all, but no special number is allotted to any one district

The Public Health Staff consists of a part-time Medical Officer, and a Sanitary Inspector who is also a part-time officer holding the appointment of Surveyor, etc.

A Visiting Nurse is provided by the County and we have a District Maternity Nurse.

Sanitary Administration.

WATER SUPPLY.

- (a) Source of supply :—Own Waterworks. Gathering ground at Rivington (Moorland.)
- (b) Condition—a good constant supply direct to all houses, supplying about 920 houses.
- (c) Possibility of contamination—Practically none.

SCAVENGING

This is satisfactorily done by Sanitary Authority.

Privy Middens are emptied by day, and refuse is disposed of by tips and land irrigation.

There is no Destructor.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

Method of treatment is irrigation. Character of drainage system—Combined and separate systems.

Sanitary Inspections during the Year.

Number of premises visited	...	...	194
Defects or Nuisances discovered	...	...	91
Number abated ..	...	...	91
Notices served :—Informal 91 ; Statutory nil.			
Legal proceedings taken—nil.			

SMOKE NUISANCE.

No special action was taken with regard to smoke abatement.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

None in the district.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

There are no Public Slaughterhouses, two private ones, 1 registered and 1 licensed. They are regularly inspected and found satisfactory.

BAKEHOUSES.

Two retail bakehouses, both of which are regularly inspected.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.—None in the District.

SCHOOLS.

There are 4 elementary schools in the district. In 3 of the schools some sanitary improvements are needed.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS.

These have been inspected and their condition was found to be satisfactory.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

Number in the District	...	...	...	7
Bleachworks...	...	...	...	1
Weaving Sheds	...	...	...	1
Cloggers	...	...	...	2
Wheelwrights	...	...	...	1
Plumbers and Joiners...	...	...	...	2

Infectious Diseases and Disinfection.

Number of Houses disinfected during the year—21.

Rooms are fumigated with "Tower" fumigators, and patients suffering from Infectious Disease are removed by Motor Ambulance to Fall Birch Hospital.

Number of Patients admitted during the year 1939—18.

Conveniences in the District.

Privy Middens—Middens	...	...	90
Closets attached	...	...	163
Pail Closets	...	...	18
Dry Ashpits (excluding middens)	...	...	4
Movable Ashbins...	...	...	627
Number of Houses on Water Carriage system			711
Fresh Water Closets	...	...	705
Waste Water Closets	...	...	16

CONVERSIONS DURING THE YEAR.

Privy Closets to Fresh Water Closets	...	13
--------------------------------------	-----	----

Number of Houses at which movable bins have been substituted for fixed receptacles	...	13
---	-----	----

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

A Scavenging Vehicle has been provided, and refuse is tipped in disused pits.

Housing.

Number of Houses erected during the year :—nil.

HOUSING CONDITIONS.

Fair conditions prevail. There are some old stone houses, low ceilings, small window areas, old flag floors, lack of damp proof courses, bad roofs, and common sleeping rooms.

The Council Housing Scheme of erecting 16 new houses is in abeyance owing to the outbreak of hostilities.

There is very little overcrowding in the district.

Notable Sanitary Improvements during 1939.

Conversions of Privies, some drainage renewals, alterations and reconditioning of insanitary housing.

Chief Sanitary requirements.

Further conversions, and housing repairs.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

LEO UNSWORTH, M.O.H.

Dalton House, Westhoughton,

August 1st, 1940.

